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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7341**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1453

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 11, 2015

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Hunting preserves.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Eberhart

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** ☒ **GENERAL**  
☒ **DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill provides for the licensing and operation of hunting preserves on which farm raised and released cervidae and game birds are hunted. The bill establishes licensing requirements, inspection requirements, and fees. It exempts licensed hunting preserves from the licensing requirements for game breeders and shooting preserves.

The bill provides that hunters on hunting preserves are not required to have a hunting license and are not subject to bag limits. It requires that a transportation tag be purchased and fixed to the leg of each cervidae taken on a hunting preserve. It also prohibits computer assisted remote hunting on hunting preserves.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2015.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Licensing of Cervidae Hunting Preserves:* The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must issue hunting preserve licenses, inspect hunting preserves not in operation between January 1, 2005, to December 31, 2014, renew licenses, and provide hunting preserve transportation tags. The DNR would have additional expenditures related to staff time needed to inspect and issue licenses to new operations. (The bill provides that if a hunting preserve operated at any time in the period of 2005 to 2014, met the requirements of and was licensed as a shooting preserve, the owner may release permitted animals and resume hunting preserve operations without an inspection.)

The bill does not require annual inspections. The DNR spends 4 to 6 hours per inspection, and for the larger pens it can take two officers to complete an inspection. Inspection costs can range from \$88 to \$264 per pen. The total costs of inspections would depend on the number of new hunting preserve license applications and any DNR rules that might be promulgated. Hunting preserves are required to collect and document specific

data on forms supplied by the DNR. Specified data is required to be kept for two years. (Shooting preserves are required to report required data to the DNR annually.) Overall expenses associated with the administration of the bill are estimated to be minor.

*Board of Animal Health (BoAH):* BoAH would be required to inspect any additional hunting preserves starting operations after July 1, 2015.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** The net impact on license and fee revenue would depend on the number of hunting preserves to be established, the number of clients, the number of transportation tags sold each year, and any potential reduction in the number of hunting licenses sold as a result of the operation of the hunting preserves. Any revenue would be deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Fund, which is used to fund the operations of the DNR Divisions of Fish & Wildlife and Enforcement. Using the assumptions discussed below, the net impact of the provisions of the bill would be an increase in revenue of \$13,676.

*Cervidae Hunting Preserve Licenses:* The bill establishes a hunting preserve license and requires a fee of \$250. There are currently 4 operating hunting preserves. If no additional operators would be licensed, license revenue would be \$1,000 per year.

*Transportation and Cull Tags:* The DNR will be required to provide transportation and cull tags for every cervidae taken on the hunting preserve. Each transportation tag will have a fee of \$50 per buck or \$25 per doe taken on the hunting preserve. Cervidae culled by the owner and transported for personal consumption or to a butcher or charity would require a cull tag, which is to be available at no cost to the owner. If each of the 4 existing hunting preserves average 90 deer harvested per year and 80% are bucks as reported in the 2010 Economic Impact Study, transportation tag revenue might be estimated to be \$16,200 per year.

*Game Breeders Licenses.* The owner of a hunting preserve license is not required to possess a game breeder's license or a shooting preserve license. The fee for a game breeders license is \$15. The fee for a shooting preserve license is \$100. Since hunting preserve licenses would be \$250, any conversion of a shooting preserve license to a hunting preserve license would result in a net increase in revenue. If the existing 4 operators convert licenses, the net increase in income would be \$540 annually.

*Hunting Licenses:* The bill would exempt users of a hunting preserve from obtaining a hunting license. The bill also provides that there is no bag limit for permitted animals of either sex taken on a hunting preserve. Current law regarding shooting preserves requires Indiana residents to obtain a hunting license and nonresidents to obtain a special license costing \$8.75. If each of the 4 existing hunting preserves serves 80 clients per year and 90% are non-residents as reported in the 2010 Economic Impact Study, this provision would result in a \$3,064 loss of license revenue. Transportation tag revenue would offset the loss of license fee revenue.

*Additional Information:* Currently, the resident hunting license fee is \$17, and the nonresident license fee is \$80. The resident deer hunting license fee is \$24; the nonresident fee is \$150. A separate deer license is required for each deer or combination of deer taken. Using the same assumptions as discussed above, if each hunting preserve client were required to purchase a single deer license, the license revenue would be estimated to \$43,968.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** DNR, State Board of Animal Health.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** DNR, and “Economic Impact of Deer and Elk Farming in Indiana”, by John Lee, Ph.D. and Alicia English Ph.D Candidate, 2011 at:  
[http://indianadeer.weebly.com/uploads/1/3/0/1/13018166/idefa\\_economicimpactanalysis\\_final.pdf](http://indianadeer.weebly.com/uploads/1/3/0/1/13018166/idefa_economicimpactanalysis_final.pdf)

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